

EDITOR UNHEALTHY TRADES JOURNAL

Those occupations which are unhealthy, though not immediately hazardous, nevertheless abridge life, ought to demand more than the ordinary rate of wages. If a man is liable to be made sick, and consequently exposed to loss of time and expense of medical attendance, he should be compensated for such liability. If he is likely to shorten life in particular employment that should be matter of consideration in determining the rate of wages.

Regarded in an economical point of view, merely, it is certain that on this account some laborers should receive much higher compensation than they do present; and to determine what that increased pay should be, we must ascertain the value or expectation of life in the different occupations. To do this, as

all as we are able in this country, we have had recourse to the official registration of births, marriages, and deaths, made by authority of the State of Massachusetts, and published annually by its secretary. We take the Eleventh Report, which gives the results of the last five years and eight months, ending December 31, 1851.

From this Report it appears that agriculturists live to the average age of 63.93 years; blacksmiths 51.14; shoemakers 51.12. We take these three examples, because they seem best to represent average employment. The first is the most healthy, the second of a medium character, and the third the most unhealthy of the three principal occupations. From this will appear that the expectation of life in rural numbers, of 61, 42, and 43 years.

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The agriculturist then, it appears, has the advantage over the blacksmith of 13 years, or 431 per cent.; and, therefore, if the blacksmith or shoemaker receive wages which shall in the aggregate during a year amount to as much as those of the farmer, they must be correspondingly higher.

According to the foregoing, if we allow 10 days to the year, and takes the wages the agriculturist to be \$1 day, the different occupations should stand as follows:

Farmer—43 by 300 equal 12,000, at \$1 a day, is \$12,000.

Blacksmith—30 by equal 9000, at \$431 per day, \$12,000.

Shoemaker—22 by 300 equal 6600, at

Such, then, *should* be the relative value of wages of these several occupations, regarded merely as a question of production. If the blacksmith or the shoemaker does not receive as high proportional wages as indicated above, he is, as compared with the farmer, working for less on a fair price, estimating life as valuable only for earning a given amount of money.

But all mechanics, it is clear, ought—other things being equal—to receive a higher rate of wages than the man who works on the farm, on the ground that they have been at the expense of learning trades, for which they should be compensated by larger pay; for a trade is capital invested, for which a profit may rightfully claimed, in the shape of en-

As an economical question, then, the expectation of life should be a matter of consideration with every one in choosing an occupation, and in determining the rate of wages. That this is now the case, is very evident, because the wages paid to labor in an unwholesome employment, do not correspond with the abridgement of human life consequent thereto; so that the laborer loses not only a good part of his life, but also a share of the wages he ought to receive while he does live. As, for example, the shoemaker does not receive, take the country through, more than \$1.42 per day; while, according to the foregoing table, he should receive \$1.954 to make his equal to farming wages at \$1 per day. If so, then he loses 534 cents per day in wages, and 23 years of his

Agriculture is evidently the normal employment of man—that in which he enjoys the greatest health and lives the longest. Every other calling is unwholesome to the exact extent which it departs from its condition from the agricultural, and therefore the rate of wages should be adjusted to a scale constructed on this principle. As things now are, all mechanics and persons employed in close rooms are at a general fact, much underpaid. This whole class live only to the average of 46 years, 18 years less than the agriculturist. They should receive greater wages, and work less hours per day: they would thus prolong their lives, and at a fair compensation for their services.

**INOCULATION with "Caustic Issues,"** now creating so much excitement and wonder among the medical savans of Europe and the United States from the multiplicity of its character, was not discovered by a distinguished Berlin physician, but by an American physician, well known in this country. It was sent by him to the leading minds of this country and Europe, as far back as 1847, and is gradually being tried as a successful and practical experiment since then.

**THE PACIFIC RAILROAD SCHEME.**—The bids for the great Pacific Railroad were opened in Austin, Texas, on the last inst., and the contract was awarded to Messrs. Walker, King, and their associates. The New Orleans Delta states that there are now upwards of three hundred hands en-

aged on the work in Texas, and that, before the expiration of ninety days, the number will exceed one thousand.

A machine for printing and numbering passenger tickets, patents in England, and in common use there, has been brought to this country. The *N. Y. Journal of Commerce* says it performs its work with great expedition and perfect accuracy, and will undoubtedly be introduced and effect a radical change in this important department of railway management.

Mr. J. A. Moss, well known in Kentucky as a temperance lecturer, recently returned to Glasgow, Tenn., from a tour of lecturing in England, and returned with a number of resolutions for a young lady who did not conform to the requirements as fully as desired, caused the suicide.